

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

Purely Personal.—The secretary of the Society and the editor of the *Journal* is tired, very tired. He has been ordered away to take a complete rest and to think as little as possible about the Society, its work, or its *Journal*. The Council has granted him a leave of absence for some months, and the Publication Committee has kindly undertaken to look after the publication of the *Journal*, under temporary editorship of Dr. D'Arcy Power. The work of building up and conducting the Society's affairs, while it has been at times hard and has involved a good deal of worry during the lean years, has also been most pleasant; to see something of real value grow from almost nothing has been a keen pleasure. Therefore, it is not without a distinct feeling of sadness that the secretary-editor obeys the instructions of his physician, closes his desk and leaves his office, to take the first real vacation in twenty years. To every member of the Society who has helped—and many have helped more than they know—the secretary-editor wishes to extend his thanks. . . .

(The above paragraph is from the pen of the late Philip Mills Jones, founder and editor of the official journal of the Medical Society of the State of California.)

From an article on "Clinical Observations on Migraine" by Herbert C. Moffit, M. D., San Francisco.

It is a pleasure in this gathering of specialists once again to acknowledge the great debt of the clinician to ophthalmology. No medical student of today should leave school and hospital without command of the methods of eye examination—the ophthalmoscope to the internist is as indispensable as the stethoscope. But during incursions into the borderland of your activity, the clinician not infrequently has chance to observe that the specialist, early in his career, builds too high a fence about his preserves and cuts off his view of the general broad field. A proper training in clinical medicine and neurology is essential to the interpretation by the ophthalmologist of many pupillary, muscle and fundus phenomena; the judicial habit of mind acquired at the bedside will curb tendencies toward narrow specialism and keep in check the enthusiastic advocate of eye strain as a source of all evil. . . .

From an article on "A Résumé of the Modern Operative Procedures in Ear Affections" by Dr. H. B. Graham, M. D., San Francisco.

It is not my purpose to give a complete description or discussion of the various operative procedures that are followed by the various otologists of today, but to review them cursorily in order to give my personal impressions concerning their value. . . .

From an article on "Some Types of Intestinal Indigestion Occurring in Young Children" by Langley Porter, M. D., San Francisco.

Any who have had experience in the examination of the stools of young children cannot fail to have been struck by the frequency with which free starch is found; nor can they have failed to notice that almost invariably the presence of this starch in the stools is accompanied by a very definite, although not uniform, series of clinical symptoms. . . .

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Dr. Samuel A. Twain, Berkeley physician, today stood convicted on ten counts of failure to keep records of narcotic prescriptions. The doctor . . . was found guilty by a jury last night after forty-five minutes' deliberation. . . . Doctor Twain was arrested last December, and, in addition to charges of failing to keep records, was accused on two counts of illegal possession of narcotics. He was acquitted on this charge in May by a jury in Superior Judge Frank M. Ogden's court in Oakland." (*Oakland Tribune*, July 12, 1936.)

"Headquarters of an illegal operation ring, said by police to perform as many as twenty abortions daily, were raided at 327 Fillmore Street and 339 Waller Street. . . . Police Inspectors George Engler and Harry Husted said the Fillmore Street address, equipped with several beds and rest-room facilities, was the ring's appointment office. Interviews with a dozen women who visited there yesterday afternoon disclosed information which led the officers to the abortion 'hospital' at 339 Waller." (*San Francisco Examiner*, July 12, 1936.)

"At least one, and perhaps more, of the thirty-one defendants indicted in connection with the alleged operation of a state-wide illegal operation ring are prepared to turn State's evidence, it was indicated today. This was indicated when twenty-two of the defendants were arraigned before Superior Judge George J. Steiger on charges of conspiracy to commit illegal operations and the commission of illegal operations. The court set October 13 as the trial date. . . . One defendant named in the indictment, Norman Powers, failed to appear in court. He is sought. William Byrne, one of the defendants, was arrested as he left the courtroom on a charge of wife abandonment on a complaint sworn to by William Heistuman, 3842 Fulton Street, his father-in-law." (Press dispatch dated San Francisco, July 10, 1936, published in the *Oakland Tribune*, July 10, 1936.)

"Twenty-three defendants in the coast-wide criminal operations ring faced Superior Judge George J. Steiger today to hear Assistant District Attorney John J. McMahon demand a swift trial 'because there are rumors of attempts to fix this case in San Francisco. . . . Reports have been circulating that R. L. Rankin, the central figure in this case, is trying to fix this case,' Mr. McMahon said. 'The story is that he "has a good in in San Francisco" and will be able to stall this case. No such thing is going to happen. We want this trial to go on swiftly, and will oppose any continuances.' Rankin, one of the defendants, made no comment on Mr. McMahon's statement. Mr. McMahon also demanded that \$2,500 bail of W. Norman Powers, another defendant, be forfeited when he failed to appear in court, despite the fact that Clarence Morris, defense attorney, produced a doctor's certificate stating Powers is ill in Seattle. 'I understand Powers is still carrying on his nefarious business in Seattle right now and that the medical certificate came from Rankin's own firm,' Mr. McMahon declared. Judge Steiger declined to forfeit the bail on Mr. Morris' promise that Powers would appear in court Monday." (*San Francisco News*, July 9, 1936.)

"The police homicide detail cracked down on three alleged abortion ring headquarters yesterday and arrested three men and five women. Acting on information from a woman informer, the police first closed in on a 'hospital'

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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